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Housing-by-GPA proposal sparks heated debate

by Heather Hagan

A controversial proposal has recently taken center stage which will revamp the process by which students select their housing. Rather than utilizing the old lottery system of the past, the order in which students get to choose their housing would be based on their GPAs. Students with the highest GPAs will have priority and will be given first choice of where they want to live.

However, the proposal is not as cut and dry as it may initially seem. To begin with, the incoming senior class will still be permitted to choose first, followed by juniors and then sophomores. In addition, students will be grouped into GPA brackets, the size of which is based on the size of the class. For example, students with GPAs between 3.7 to 4.0 could be placed in the top bracket. Within that bracket, the lottery system will be utilized to determine who gets to choose first, second, third, etc. This way, a student's individual GPA will not be revealed. In addition, the new system still allows students to squat their rooms and to bring along a roommate with a lower selection number.

According to Provost David Chattin, the intent of the restructured selection process is to shift the College's focus back to academics.

"The message that we have been

hearing is that the school has lost the focus it once had on academics," stated Dr. Chattin. "The perception from the outside has been that St. Joe is not as strong academically as we know it is." Chattin added that this is one step in an ongoing process that will shift the focus back to where it should be.

Despite what most agree are good intentions behind this proposal, it has been met with considerable opposition from both students and some faculty members. Many have argued that this would be a discriminatory action against students whose GPAs are not quite up to par.

"My concern is that students will feel as though they are being personally punished," stated Student Association President Chris Campbell. "I don't believe this will give students incentive to work harder. It will just give them a negative feeling toward St. Joe."

To this concern and others, Dr. Chattin responds by noting that this is not the intent of the proposal. It is intended simply to reward students for academic success, not for effort. In regard to the objection that housing-by-GPA ignores the other good qualities and behaviors of students, Chattin responded, "This is correct and it was purposeful. We are an academic institution."

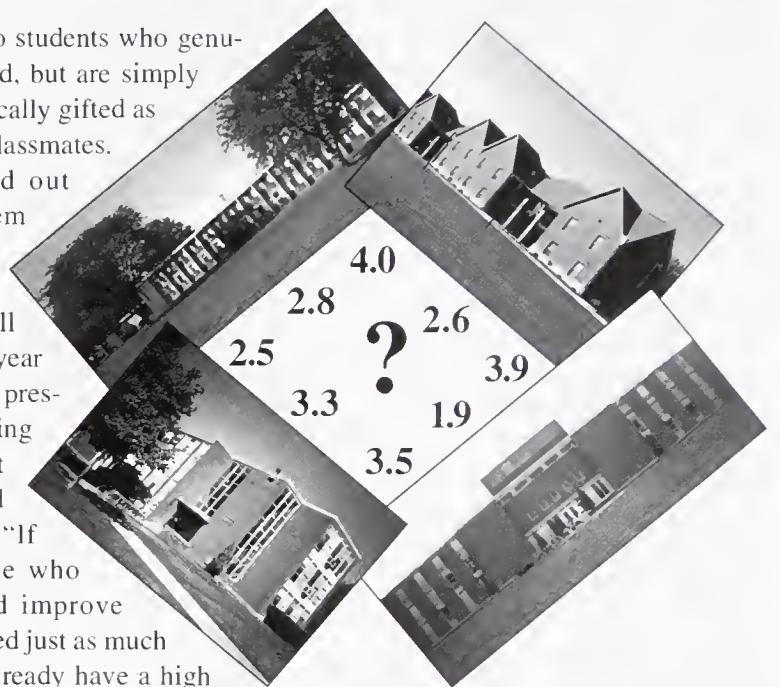
However, many students, such as Senate President David Banks, feel that

this is unfair to students who genuinely work hard, but are simply not as academically gifted as some of their classmates.

Banks pointed out that this system would punish a student who did not do well their freshman year because of the pressures of adjusting to college, but who has shaped up thereafter. "If anything, those who work hard and improve should be praised just as much as those who already have a high GPA," Banks stated.

In addition to the more vocal students who are opposed to this proposal, there is also a significant number of students who quietly support the idea. In fact, as Dr. Chattin points out, the idea for housing-by-GPA originated from students on the Faculty Committee on Student Life. Two students have even expressed an interest in starting a petition in favor of the proposal.

Student Association Secretary Blaire Henley is one of few who has voiced her support for the idea. "I'm in favor of putting a focus on academics. I know some people like to see academic success re-



warded in another way and I understand that, but right now the reward being offered is housing-by-GPA, so I'm willing to accept what's being offered."

Implementation of this policy has currently been halted as a result of the outcry among students opposed to the idea. Dr. Chattin has expressed his willingness to listen to students' concerns and gain more input before going any further.

It has been suggested that this idea be implemented on a trial-run basis. "If we tried it for a year and it didn't work, I would have no problem admitting it didn't work," stated Chattin. "But for now, I'm willing to listen."

Senior of the Year nominees vie for prestigious honor

by Breain Ma'Ayteh

The votes were tallied, the interviews are done. Now, all the five candidates can do is wait until the Senior Dinner on April 6 to find out which student will be honored with the award for "Senior of the Year."

The first "Senior of the Year" was honored in 1967, and over the past 34 years, the award has remained a continuing tradition among Saint Joe's senior class.

There are certain criteria a student must meet in order to be considered as a finalist for the award. Alumni and Parent Relations Manager Jim Wirtes explained the process by which the top five candidates are chosen.

"Senior of the Year candidates are those seniors who have a 3.25 GPA or better through their first seven semesters," he said. "The top five are the top five vote-getters during the student-voting process. We list all of the eligible candidates and ask each senior to vote

for three people. We then tally up the votes and the top five are finalists."

This year's voting resulted in a six-person tie for the final three votes.

"We emailed all of the seniors and had them vote again. This time they only voted for two people each and we took the top three vote getters to round out the finalists."

The five candidates for the 2001 award are:

THE 2000-2001 SENIOR OF THE YEAR FINALISTS:

AMANDA BAILEY
DEREK DABROWIAK
SHAWN DELEHANTY
DANIEL ADAMS
ADAM SMITH

-**Amanda Bailey.** Completing a biology major and a chemistry minor, Bailey hopes to attend medical school and eventually enter into family practice. Some of her activities include being a Chemistry tutor, a Science Olympiad volunteer and playing Varsity Women's Soccer.

-**Derek Dabrowiak.** As Production Director, Disc Jockey and Sportscaster, Dabrowiak is heavily involved with Saint Joe's campus radio station, WPUM 90.5. He is also the Talent Director for the campus TV

station, WPUM-TV6. Dabrowiak is majoring in Mass Communications and double-minoring in Marketing and History.

-**Shawn Delahanty.** This computer science major is considering web design after college. "I hope to get a job... somewhere in the midwest," he said. In addition to being Senior Class Secretary, Delahanty is also involved in Habitat for Humanity, the Youth Club, Cup O' Joe, and is the student senator for his residence hall.

-**Daniel Adams.** Adams is majoring in International Business and double-minoring in Spanish and Art. "[I'm interested in] an entry-level sales or marketing position that will allow me to relocate and to travel extensively," he remarked. His activities include Peer Facilitator and Minority Student Leader President from 1999 to 2000.

-**Adam Smith.** This track and field runner has been the vice-president for the Gallagher Charitable Society for the past two years. He is majoring in Biochemistry and Health Therapy. He is currently maintaining a 3.5 grade point average.

A committee, consisting of five

people from the Alumni Board of Directors, will determine the winner. The committee interviewed each of the five candidates on Feb. 2 and 3. Based on these interviews and on recommendations submitted by faculty and staff, the members will choose the Senior of the Year.

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Pardon me, but can we move on?

by Luke Hansen

The Clinton era officially ended over a month ago. Not surprisingly, good and faithful people across the country rejoiced and looked forward to more respectable and honorable future presidents.

No truly informed citizens, regardless of party affiliation, can reflect on the past eight years with pride and respect. The Clinton Administration did not conduct itself with high principle or morals. In writing this column, however, it would be wasteful to chronicle Clinton's countless errors in judgment during his presidency.

Over one month since President Bush's inauguration, we can see that the criticism of Clinton has not ceased for even one moment. The former President issued an unprecedented and interesting 175 pardons on his final day in office. Once again, it seems that Clinton was getting involved in some sleazy business. Did this really surprise anyone? Not me.

Good ole' Indiana Congressman Dan Burton appeared on the *Larry King Show* during the first few hours of the Marc Rich controversy. To say the least, he appeared overly concerned with this particular pardon and any improprieties that may have occurred. On the other hand, Rich lawyer Jack Quinn offered a challenge to the new President. He told President Bush that if he favored "a new tone" and "bipartisanship" in Washington, then he should publicly call for an end to any controversies surrounding former President Clinton's pardons.

Quinn was right. This was President Bush's pledge to America, wasn't it? The new President faced a tremendously difficult circumstance, and Americans anxiously awaited his comments on the controversial pardons.

On February 22, President Bush conducted his first official news conference in the White House. Toward the end of this conference, one anxious reporter finally got his chance to brew up some unimportant news.

"Mr. President, do you believe that pardons were for sale in the Clinton White House? And what specifically do you think should be done to look into the circumstances of the President's brother-in-law accepting money to lobby him on pardons?" the reporter asked.

Acknowledging his campaign promises and optimism regarding the future atmosphere of Washington, D.C., Bush confidently answered the question.

"David, as far as this White House is concerned, it's time to go forward. I've got too much to do — to get a budget passed, to get reforms passed for education, to get a tax cut passed, to strengthen the military — than to be worrying about decisions that my predecessor made."

The time has arrived to finally move forward. Thank God we have a humble and moral leader in the White House who has displayed a willingness to lead.

Fashion Emergency 101

Staff Editorial

Sitting in Core lecture, one cannot help but notice that it is sometimes difficult to differentiate between the faculty members and the students in terms of how they are dressed. This is perfectly acceptable for those professors in the audience for whom it is a normal teaching day. However, for the professor giving the lecture, it seems that a more strict dress code would be in order.

This is not to say that professors have to come to class in a suit and tie; however, it would be nice to look presentable. Giving a lecture is no different than giving a presentation in the business world or making a court appearance in the legal realm. It is a professional situation where professional standards should be the norm.

Furthermore, it is not just professors who are guilty of this, but students as well. All of us, on occasion, roll out of bed and head to class in the morning, giving little thought to our appearance. This is college and that's what college students often do. How-

ever, this is not acceptable on days when students are required to give a presentation.

No matter how minor you think the presentation might be, it is still important to put forth a professional appearance for two reasons: 1) your appearance conveys how seriously you have taken the presentation and how seriously your audience will take you; and 2) it is simply a good practice to get into because, believe it or not, the "real world" is just around the corner. Gone will be the days of being able to dash out of your room in your P.J's. Employers probably won't take too kindly to this. It is important to learn that acting professional entails *looking* professional. Even though that presentation might not seem as important as a job interview, it is an important step toward honing the skills that will benefit you greatly in the workforce.

So, SJC - let's start looking like the professional, academic group of individuals we know we are.

WHAT WOMEN REALLY WANT

A woman's advice for those clueless men

by Anonymous

This is not an article on the recent movie with Mel Gibson, but more of a follow up to it. Many men today say that women are too hard to understand, and that they are just way too complicated. Well, guys, today is your lucky day! I'm going to tell you what women really want (at least most of them).

Don't take this as a criticism of the male gender, because it is far from that. We women have to give you guys credit, because there are some of you out there who know what you're doing. But for you less knowledgeable fellows, this is in hopes that you will absorb this information and apply it to your relationships with the female gender now and in the future.

First of all, women like to be complimented. Many times, a girl will go out of her way to look extra nice when she goes out, especially with the thought of seeing the opposite sex. I know that sometimes it's hard to understand why we must stress over such things, but it's not just about impressing the men-folk. It's also for ourselves, because when we look good, we feel good, and life is much easier that way. And one more thing, even if we don't look extremely great, give us the benefit of the doubt since she worked so hard to achieve that look. We want to hear, "You're beautiful."

Secondly, call us back. There's nothing more uncomfortable than waiting by the phone just hoping that he will call back. I have spent too much time with my stomach in knots waiting for that someone to call me, and it was miserable, especially when he never called. And don't think that we can call you, because, honey, it doesn't work like that.

It's usually a matter of pride. We don't want to seem desperate (even though, in most cases, we are). Not only does you calling us first save us from desperation, but it also lets us know that you were thinking about us as well. When it is known that the feelings are mutual, then things go much better and get off to a better start.

And finally, the issue of surprises! This is my personal favorite. Speaking from experience, there isn't a more perfect way to melt that special girl's heart then to surprise her. You may say, "Well, I don't have a whole lot of money." That's no excuse. The best surprises are the ones that don't even cost you a penny; something like a little note slipped under her door that just says, "I love you", or stopping by without warning and coming to see her for no other reason than just because. Of course, if you happen to have a little extra money on you, flowers are usually a big hit, along with soft cuddly animals or things that you know she likes. Any kind of surprise is great because it is a sweet gesture to let her know that you care.

I know that this list isn't the longest, and I haven't even covered everything women want, but I hope that this was good enough to get you started. So if you are new at the relationship game, try using these ideas, and if you already have a great girl, remember to continue these things. But don't ever forget this: It's never too late to make a girl feel special.

If you or someone you know has a problem or a concern in the relationship department and wishes to voice it, email me at puma_luv@hotmail.com All statements made will be anonymous and will only be used to make suggestions and help out those in need.

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Editor's Note

by Mandy Meyers
Opinion/News Editor

In the February 15 issue, I wrote an article titled "Out to Lunch" concerning staff and administration's lunch hours. However, I would like to take a moment to recognize two women who work in Facilities and Planning; Anita Harsha and Nancy Rickert. These two women work Monday through Friday from 7a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Both take separate lunch hours so that someone will always be in the office to serve the students. I would like to thank Anita and Nancy for being cooperative and understanding concerning this issue. Hopefully this will become a trend for other departments. Again, thank you ladies for being there for the students!

SJC Dance Team Places at Nationals

by Nichole Workman

On a sunny, January afternoon in Florida, where the temperature reached 80 degrees by noon, many girls could be found rehearsing complicated dance moves backstage while a group of judges and spectators patiently awaited their performances. Without a doubt, the crowd was thoroughly impressed by what they had been anticipating. Many college dance teams all gave their best performances in the National Dance Competition.

January 11th through the 14th was no ordinary weekend for the Saint Joseph's College dance team. After taking a bus to Indianapolis, they then took a plane and flew to Florida to compete with other dance teams from across the country. For the second year in a row, the girls competed in the "open division." After much hard work and preparation for the competition, the girls placed 19th among schools much larger than Saint Joe. "I personally think it was our best perfor-

mance ever," says junior Bethany Pappalardo.

"Florida was a blast! We really seemed to come together as a team there and got to know each other a little better," stated sophomore Charice Goble.

Aside from the hard work that was put into the competition, the girls also got to have a little fun. They went to Pleasure Island and Planet Hollywood. "We all had an awesome time in Florida," says freshman Kristina Freeman. "I especially enjoyed the Latin dance party at Pleasure Island."

The SJC dance team performed their last dance February 22nd, choreographed by senior Tara Hairston. So what's in store for next year? Try-outs are in April, and all girls are welcome. Next year's captain Charice Goble has already discussed goals with the team. "We hope to become more unified and want to work on some basic things to make our dance technique the same. We also hope to work on placing higher in Nationals."

Education Students Participate in Statewide Reading Conference

by Katie Davet

On Monday, February 5, a group of nine education students attended the Indiana State Reading Association Conference in Indianapolis. The group was made up of secondary education students. The students used their skills and knowledge about multiple intelligences and incorporated them into their own lesson plans in order to show the audience how to make learning more enjoyable for students. The name of the presentation was "Kaleidoscope."

Each SJC education student who attended composed a lesson which incorporated multiple intelligences into their specific area of study. Sophomore Todd Huff and Senior Erin Burton shared their lesson plans in the science field. "I presented ways to incorporate multiple intelligences into prereading, postreading, and guided silent reading chemistry/physical science lesson plans," Huff said.

Senior Ary Nelson and Sophomore Jennifer Frankowski covered the music area. Freshman Becky Singel and Sophomore Trisha Toney shared their lessons on physical education. Juniors, Holly Shearer and Heather Heide shared lessons in upper elementary education. Finally, Senior Don Shanahan covered the social studies field.

These students had to develop their own lesson plans for their class called, "Reading in the Content Areas" with Professor Gwyn Skrobol. The crowd was very pleased with the students and said they did an excellent job. "I am very proud of these students! They did a terrific job," said Professor Skrobol.

To start the event, Professor Skrobol gave an introduction which was followed by a speech by Shanahan. He explained his own definition of multiple intelligences and talked about his four-year ex-

perience as an Elementary Education major at Saint Joseph's College. The term 'multiple intelligences' refers to the different ways in which students learn. Understanding these different methods of learning reveals the students' strongest traits and their strengths.

There are many different categories of multiple intelligences. The main task of the event was to introduce a lesson plan that made all the students incorporate all the "multiple intelligences." The lesson plans were made special because there was an activity or lesson that connected all of the multiple intelligences to one another.

The event was a beneficial experience for SJC Students. Shanahan said, "The conference itself was a great experience, something I was proud to do as a senior and a Puma. Even though we didn't speak in front of a lot of people, we really represented the idea of a college student and future educator well. People really took to what we were talking about without holding our age or lack of experience against us."

Sophomore Trisha Toney also liked the experience in Indianapolis. "It was very enjoyable," she stated. "We spoke about our lesson plans and a lot of people really enjoyed what we had to say. We worked with some professors from Indiana University and mostly elementary teachers. It was a fun experience."

Huff added, "As a sophomore, I was especially honored by the opportunity to speak at a professional conference. [It] is an excellent addition to my education portfolio."

RIGHT: SJC EDUCATION STUDENTS pose at the reading conference in Indianapolis where they presented their lesson plans incorporating multiple intelligences. *Photo courtesy of Gwyn Skrobol*

Saint Joe Hosts Science Olympiad

by Bree Ma'Ayteh

On Saturday, February 17, for the 11th year, Saint Joe hosted the Science Olympiad. From 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., middle school and high school students built bridges, dropped eggs, and took tests, all in the name of science.

The Olympiad is a national science organization that breaks down into state and regional competitions. Saint Joe hosted the regional competition for the Northern Indiana schools and was one of five regional sites in Indiana.

In addition to Rensselaer's middle school and high school, other participating schools came from Valparaiso, Lake Station, Schererville, Dyer, Wheatfield, Knox, and Merrillville.

Altogether, there were 11 middle school teams and 12 high school teams, with no more than 15 students per team. Each individual school broke up the students into pairs of two. There were also chances for each student to participate in events as an individual, so students could earn points as an individual, and not just as part of their schools. "Some people are more interested in individual events, which allow a better chance for students to earn points. The nice thing is even though the school might not place, students as individuals still can," Dr. Anne Gull said.

The Science Olympiad consists of three categories of events: Building, Lab and Test-taking. The building activities are the only ones that are worked on in advance. Activities include Bridge Building, Mission Possible and Science Clue, along with various chemistry and physics experiments. There were 46 events in all.

This was the 11th year that Saint Joe has hosted the program. Retired Professor of Biology Duvall Jones has been director of the program here since the beginning. He now has an assistant, chemistry professor Anne Gull.

There were many people assisting with the activities this year. David Chesak, Heidi Rahe, Cheryl Wistrom, Jones and Gull are the faculty in charge

of organizing the event, assisted by students Todd Huff, Sarah Morningstar and Kari Musch. SJC professors from each department also head experiments.

This is the first time that students were heavily involved in the program, and they seemed excited about the experience. Morningstar, the middle school coaches' contact, said she loves seeing the challenges that the coaches have to deal with. "I want to be a high school teacher, so I might end up doing this some day. I'd like to see how it's done," she said.

Todd Huff also has dreams of going into teaching. "As a future high school chemistry, physical science and math teacher, I enjoy the enthusiasm for the sciences that the Science Olympiad promotes. I also enjoy the competitive spirit," he said.

In fact, the Olympiad is funded in part by local donations, and St. Joseph's College has been home to the competition since the school decided to become involved. It also offers a \$1,500 scholarship to the 12th grade participant who scores the highest number of medal points (four for first place, three for second place, etc.).

Other sponsors included State Farm Insurance Company, Lafayette Bank and Trust, Peoples State Bank, Jasper County REMC and numerous individuals. The rest of the money came from state funds and the registration fees paid by the participating schools. The Saint Joseph's College Science Club also used a portion of their funding to help sponsor the event.

The Olympiad began on Feb. 17 and ran throughout the afternoon. The winners were announced at an awards ceremony that same day. The top three schools each received a trophy, and the coaches were presented with plaques.

In the Middle School division this year, Thomas Jefferson finished first, Ben Franklin finished second, and Kahler finished third. In the High School division, Valparaiso finished first, Peru finished second, and Winamac finished third.





Puma Profile: A Closer Look at Loren Orchard

New choir director is pleased with progress of SJC choir as he makes plans for the future

by Melissa Genova

Music serves a different purpose for many people: to some it is a hobby, to some a career, to some just a mere source of entertainment. To those SJC students who view music as more than just entertainment and prefer to perform it, Loren Orchard is a familiar face.

Orchard is the current director of SJC's choir. This is Orchard's first year teaching here; however, he has already signed a contract that has confirmed him to be next year's director, as well. He has a history, though, of working with chorale music before SJC.

"I had been a pastor for twenty years at the First Assembly of God," Orchard explained. "I administered music and taught Christian education to the congregation. There were about 650-800 people overall. I was a senior pastor and there were multiple people on the staff."

Orchard is enjoying his time here at St. Joe and has been pleased with the choir's progress this year. "The thing I've enjoyed most is getting to know students," he stated. "I think the Feast of Lessons and Carols has

been my favorite performance. The combination of choir, keyboard, congregation, and speakers made for an excellent program."

One of the things he has learned about the choir is that it encompasses a multitude of characters. "Every student is unique and everyone has his or her own personality. That adds to the whole of the choir and I appreciate each and every person," said Orchard.

Loren Orchard has already made extensive plans for the vocal music programs next year. As it stands, there is talk of a jazz or madrigal choir that would potentially replace the current show choir. Although these proposed changes are looking good, the details must be discussed further.

"Next year we are also going to be performing a

requiem written by Dr. John Egan to commemorate the life and death of John F. Kennedy," said Orchard. The Chorus director is planning for the choir to perform it on the thirty-fifth anniversary of JFK's death. "We will be accompanied by 'Doc' Egan," said Orchard.

Orchard is also planning to expand on some of this year's successes. "We are also doing the Feast of Lessons and Carols again, and most likely Handel's 'Young Messiah.' It is a modern version of 'The Messiah' that includes contemporary brass and guitars. It has more of a 'rock band' feel," he

"Every student is unique and everyone has his or her own personality. That adds to the whole of the choir and I appreciate each and every person."

~ Loren Orchard

explained.

Although Orchard has quite a resume under his belt, he is looking to further his education by getting his Doctorate of Ministry. He is currently attending Trinity International University in Deerfield, IL. To add to his list of roles, he will be teaching Core 3 next year to incoming sophomores.



by Don Shanahan

At the Movies with Don: 'Hannibal' Gives New Meaning to "Dinner and a Movie"

One of the most indelible images in modern movie history is Anthony Hopkins in character as Dr. Hannibal Lector making a creepy slurping sound as he discusses his cannibalized meal of fava beans, human liver, and Chianti, with spooked rookie FBI trainee Clarice Starling, played by Jodie Foster. The image of his wide-open eyes and calm, yet menacing vocal candor is creepy even now, ten years since *The Silence of the Lambs* came to the screen.

Needless to say, it's hard to top a moment like that, yet Hollywood has had a constant desire to make sequels of its most successful products. *The Silence of the Lambs* has become part of that trend. Its sequel, *Hannibal*, has taken over movie screens across the country as the #1 movie for three straight weeks to date. *Hannibal* is one of eleven sequels slated to hit theaters in 2001 (others include *Rush Hour 2*, *American Pie 2*, and *Jurassic Park 3*).

If you haven't heard of it yet, *Hannibal* is the long-awaited sequel to the famous 1991 Best Picture Oscar winner. It's been ten years since Dr. Lector (still the fantastic Anthony Hopkins) made his daring escape and goodbye phone call to newly bronzed FBI agent Starling, played this time by Julianne Moore from *Boogie Nights*, instead of Foster. After ten years, Starling is a veteran agent within the FBI and Dr. Lector hasn't been heard from since—until now.

Out of the blue, Starling receives a letter from her sadistic mentor talking about his time of freedom and his desire to get back into the swing of things. The letter sets off an endeavor for Clarice to hunt down Dr. Lector. The problem is that she must do it alone after being suspended and under investigation by crooked Justice Department official Paul Krendler (Ray Liotta of *Goodfellas*) for a bloody public shootout gone wrong,

for which she's getting the blame.

The first clue comes from billionaire Mason Verger (an unrecognizably creepy Gary Oldman), a horribly disfigured former victim of Lector. Years ago, Lector made him cut his own face off and now Verger wants revenge and has a \$3,000,000 reward out. His plan is to feed Dr. Lector to a pack of flesh-eating wild boars.

That manhunt and reward gets a jump-start from Detective Pazzi (Giancarlo Giannini), a gruff cop in Florence, Italy, who's spotted Hannibal and tipped off Verger. He finds Dr. Lector spending his time living the cultural life as a museum curator at the famed Palazzo Vecchio. Having been found out, Lector flees for America with the intrigue of running into his old

pal Clarice. Well, I'm sure you've already heard what happens in the cat-and-mouse game that follows. Dinner was definitely served.

Like any sequel it is impossible not to compare the sequel to the original predecessor. In *The Silence of the Lambs*, the violent life of Hannibal Lector is off-screen and only suggested. Without seeing his crimes, the effect of the movie is more psy-

chological than visual, something I consider to be a stronger effect. In that sense, you can only imagine the heinous acts that are spoken. *Hannibal* is different because it is much more visceral by going over-the-top to put those images of violence right in front of you on-screen. Nothing is suggested and no holds are barred thanks to *Gladiator* and *Alien* director Ridley Scott. It is, by far, one of the most visually graphic movies I have ever seen.

For you, the audience, this can be a good thing or a bad thing. Some people may like seeing it all hang out, so to speak, while some are going to miss the smart and cerebral tone of the first movie. In any case, Dr. Lector is the hero. Don't tell me you didn't crack a smile when he planned his revenge at the end of the

first movie on his former warden to Foster in the "have a friend for dinner" part! Face it, while you may not like his methods, you want Hannibal to fight through the manhunt and have a showdown with Clarice just as much as the character himself does.

While the acting and production in *Hannibal* is better this time around (Hopkins is right on and Moore is much better than Foster), I miss the smartness and restrained creepiness that came with *The Silence of the Lambs*. I enjoyed many of the visual thrills Ridley Scott created, but, for me, that tone couldn't top the subtle suspense and mystery of the first. *Hannibal* was fun to reprise, but predictable. I highly enjoyed seeing Anthony Hopkins back in his finest role, but it becomes very obvious who's going to end up as victims and who's not.

See *Hannibal* only if you are up for the fun and nostalgia of Hopkins. Being the #1 movie in America for three weeks, I'm sure many of you who have yet to see it have been drawn to it by a curiosity factor from those returning with stories of shocking violence and excitement. I will warn you, again. The violence is graphic and very unsettling. Every woman I've talked to has hated it. Take it from me, this isn't the one for the "dinner-and-a-movie date."



SJC Prepares for Spring Kairos Retreat

On Thursday March 15th the spring 2001 class of retreatants will depart for Kairos XXX. This year's team is headed up by rector Megan Taylor '02 and faculty sponsor Brother Tim Hemm. The remaining team members are made up of Kairos Alums as well as non-student members of the SJC community. The group will depart on Thursday and return on the following Sunday. Any member of the SJC community is welcome to join the group as they embark upon a weekend of relaxation, reflection, and prayer.

Individuals interested in deepening their relationship with themselves and God should contact Megan Taylor, Brother Tim, or any member of the Kairos XXX team.

THE SJC MASTER PLAN:

Not tearing down the past, but building the future

by Mike Potts

The day is a sunny one, a bright spring afternoon, and students are hurrying off to classes. They pass the others lounging on the Halleck Center terrace as they scurry hastily from their lunch. Some of their friends, gloating about their light class schedules, still hang around the lunch room, peering out the large windows at their residence. They cannot wait until classes are done for the day. They are already planning to crash in front of the air-conditioning.

Does any of this sound familiar? Probably not at Saint Joseph's College. But this is the future of the school. The College's master plan is designed for the betterment of the students, faculty, and the entire Saint Joseph's College community. It will provide a more comfortable atmosphere, a more academically driven program, and an image that not only supports the tradi-

tion of the college, but also the modernization of technology and living. It cannot, however, do anything about those light class schedules mentioned above.

The Master Planning Committee has listed eight major components to the plan, and already there has been progress on many of them. First, the image of the campus is being developed. As you read this, the Class of 1961 is raising funding to rebuild the entryway on highway 231, replacing the current structures with a new brick and stone signage wall. Also, the Class of 1969 is currently raising monies for the new Core Plaza.

The Information Services Building, a major project that will combine both the Library and the Computer Resource Center, will occupy the current location of Merlini Hall. Because there must be sufficient housing for Merlini's residents to move to, this project is estimated to occur within 3 to 5 years.

Much of the Athletics and Recreation additions and renovations will be put on hold for a while - perhaps a number of years down the road - but there have been some improvements already. With the completion of the new fitness center, there has also been added an outdoor track, a new fence around the baseball diamond, new dugouts and bleachers for the softball field and some renovated offices in the Recreation Center.

As soon as May of this year, renovation will begin



A VIEW OF the Academic Quadrangle facing north (toward Halleck Center). The new Information Services Building (seen on the left) will combine the Library and the Computer Center and occupy the current location of Merlini.



THE NEW ADMISSIONS Welcome Center. The new facility will adjoin the east side of McHale Hall and will also house the offices of Financial Aid and Enrollment Management.

on the labs in the Science Building. Part of this renovation will take place this summer, part the next summer. Also, there will soon be work on the new Admissions Welcome Center, which will be located to the East of Xavier-McHale Hall. President Shannon, a key architect of the Master Plan, described the new Welcome Center as "a gateway to the college," where prospective students begin their journey and tour through Saint Joseph's College.

Chapel renovations are currently being carried out and will continue to be through most of the phases of the Plan until completion. The Fellows organization for the college have taken on the project of gaining new lead for the chapel's stained glass windows, helping to restore and advance a major symbol of the college and its history. Meanwhile, the Friends of the Chapel Committee have recommended several renovations for the chapel, including painting and a new sound system, rearranging inside and, most significantly, a new roof.

Because they are a major undertaking for the school, the additions and renovations of the Halleck Student Center are far from being a reality. When it is completed, however, the center will be a more user-friendly complex, with an updated dining hall and more visible bookstore and offices. For right now though, the project's nearly five million-dollar price tag is a bit too steep to make it a top priority.

What the school's top priority really is, however, is student housing. The first part of housing renovation - the addition of the residential suites and the renovations of Halas and Gallagher - have already been completed. Currently the school is working on renovating the lounges of Justin Hall. The next part of the housing project becomes a bit more expensive. With the building of three new residence halls, the plan entails the tearing down of two current ones. This will take place within about 3-5 years. Noll and Bennett Halls are "better torn down than renovated," explained President Shannon of the almost fifty year old dormitories.

Perhaps now you can see that student terrace, or that glass-enclosed dining hall. Perhaps now you can see the new air-conditioned residence halls, or even those easy classes. Perhaps not. But one thing you should see by now is that the college's Master Plan is not simply all about teardowns and additions. It is not just about renovations or wiping the slate clean for Saint Joe. Instead it is building with it, right alongside it, keeping its traditions. It is building the College's future.

Gallagher Charitable Society Gears Up for Another Semester

by Susan Huss

What is better than bringing joy into a child's life or filling an empty stomach? Members of the Gallagher Charitable Society (GCS) would say, "Not much!" It's a small group, with only four permanent board members and faculty sponsor Father William Stang, C.P.P.S., yet it does a lot for the struggling families in the Rensselaer/Remington area.

"We throw a Christmas party for children and their families who are in need every year with the help of about 100 volunteers," Wendy Sidener, who is the

head of the GCS board, said. "There are usually about 300 families. We spend all of first semester raising money. We try to raise about \$8,000, then we throw the party, and then we gear up the next year."

At the Christmas party, the children and their families receive brunch, and the children get a hat, gloves, and a toothbrush. The children also each receive a used and new toy. "Fr. Stang spends the whole year collecting used toys and fixing them up," Sidener said.

Sidener, who took over this year as a sophomore since the other GCS members have either graduated or are student teaching, said the GCS is not alone in its quest to make children's lives better.

"Wal-Mart will probably be our biggest supporter this year," Sidener said. "We're teaming up with

Wal-Mart to get grant money. Other businesses in the community also support us. One of the dentists in town donates all the toothbrushes. Trinity United Methodist Church had a new toy drive for us. The elementary schools in Rensselaer have a food drive for non-

perishable items that families get. The winner of the drive gets a pizza party."

Sidener said that her favorite activities she did with the GCS were staying up until 3 a.m. decorating the stage for the Christmas party and passing out used toys with Father Stang.

"The best part [of working with GCS] is seeing the little kids' faces when they're wandering around with their new toys," Sidener said.

"The best part [of working with GCS] is seeing the little kids' faces when they're wandering around with their new toys."

- Wendy Sidener

SJC Track Teams Ranked 13th and 20th in Nation

Through outstanding team effort, Coach Bill Massoels has taken the Pumas through their indoor schedule with both the men's and women's teams finishing a strong third in the GLVC Indoor Championships, where senior thrower Joe Koczan became the GLVC Indoor Male Athlete of the Year. Here are the most recent track results:

by Don Shanahan

CHICAGOLAND CHAMPIONSHIP

at Romeoville, IL

Aaron Thomas broke the meet record in the 35 lb. weight throw with a toss of 57' 10" only to be broken by Joe Koczan, his teammate and next competitor, after his heave of 57' 11 f".

Top Men's Finishers

TEAM—4TH OUT OF 16 TEAMS

Joe Koczan—1st 35 lb. weight throw

Aaron Thomas—2nd 35 lb. weight throw

Greg Myers—(tie)2nd high jump

Josh Hughes—(tie)2nd high jump

Tim Newman—2nd mile run

Joe Koczan—3rd shot put

Andy Cool—6th shot put

Josh Hughes—6th high jump

Ben Zimmer—7th mile run

Jason Johnson—7th long jump

Justin Evans—9th high hurdles

Kevin Moeller—9th mile run

Rickey McCray—9th 55m sprint

Rickey McCray—10th 200m run

Dan Westphal—10th 5000m run

Greg Myers—10th triple jump

Top Women's Finishers

Melissa Klienmaus—2nd hurdles

Jaymi Harztler—2nd mile run

Alexis Virtue—2nd 5000m run

Jamie Marshall—5th hurdles

Sarah Garman—5th shot put

Maria Toledo—6th 5000m run

Kim Noon—6th weight throw

Kelli Deckard—7th weight throw

Anne Balmes—7th pole vault

Lyndi Cruikshank—8th pole vault

Sarah Flory—8th 5000m run

Fallon Lane—9th 400m run

GLVC INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

at Lewis University

The SJC track teams went into the conference championships ranked 13th (men) and 20th (women) respectively in the nation. Both teams came away finishing third out of seven teams at the meet. Five Puma student-athletes were named to the All-GLVC team: Aaron Thomas, Joe Koczan, Kim Noon, Sarah Garman, and Alexis Virtue.

In even bigger news, Joe Koczan was named the GLVC Indoor Male Athlete

of the Year for his stellar performances in the shot put and 35 lb. weight throw. In both events, Koczan set new GLVC records and finished in first place.

Top Men's Finishers

Joe Koczan—1st shot put

Joe Koczan—1st 35 lb. weight throw

Aaron Thomas—2nd weight throw

Men's 4x200m Relay (Adam Smith,

Justin Evans, Jeff Rugg, Rickey

McCray)—2nd

Tim Newman—3rd mile run

Josh Hughes—3rd high jump

Jason Johnson—3rd long jump

Greg Myers—3rd triple jump

Andy Cool—4th shot put

Jeremy Freel—5th 35 lb. weight throw

Evan Gault—5th shot put

Greg Myers— 5th high jump

Men's 4x400m Relay (Tim Newman,

Ben Zimmer, Jason Johnson, Adam

Smith)—5th

Jason Johnson—5th 200m hurdles

Josh Hughes—5th long jump

Andy Cool—6th 35 lb. weight throw

Joe Graves—6th pole vault

Rickey McCray—6th 55m sprint

Rickey McCray—6th 200m run

Tim O'Connor—7th pole vault

Ben Zimmer—7th mile run

Tim Newman—8th 800m run

Top Women's Finishers

Alexis Virtue—2nd 5000m run

Women's 4x200m Relay (Fallon Lane,

Lyndi Cruikshank, Melissa Kleinmaus,

Becca Niziolek)—2nd

Sarah Garman—2nd shot put

Kim Noon—2nd weight throw

Women's 4x400m Relay (Melissa

Klienmaus, Jaymi Hartzler, Jamie

Marshall, Fallon Lane)—3rd

Jamie Marshall—4th 200m hurdles

Kelli Deckard—4th weight throw

Kelli Deckard—5th shot put

Sarah Garman—5th weight throw

Lyndi Cruikshank—5th triple jump

Teresa Gaura—6th 800m run

Melissa Kleinmaus—6th high jump

Jaymi Hartzler—7th mile run

Jaymi Hartzler—7th 3000m run

Nancy Giovingo—(tie)7th pole vault

Maria Toledo—7th 5000m run

Becca Niziolek—8th 200m run

Fallon Lane—8th 400m run

Lyndi Cruikshank—8th long jump

Sports Editorial

THE INSIDE CORNER

The sport of baseball and its unfair rap

by Erik Steffen

Baseball has been romanticized more than any other sport in America. Before I started to write this, I asked myself, "Will this be a cliché?" Of course, I figured it would be, but hey I'm going to write about it anyway. I also wanted to avoid gaining the stigma of that-guy-who-always-writes-about-baseball, but that, too, proved inevitable as I sat down to write this column. Baseball is a sport that gets an unfair rap as being boring; non-loyalists only find it entertaining when Mark McGwire is hitting 70,000 homers a season.

But that just isn't so. There are many reasons why a real fan, a fan who can sit and enjoy a 2-1 pitchers duel pitch by pitch, enjoys the game. Those fans know.

They know there is a difference between a fly ball and a pop up. They know that when there's a runner on third and the batter hits a ground ball to the second baseman, he did it on purpose.

They know that a suicide squeeze during a tie game in the 9th is way more exciting than a game winning home run.

Anyone can lift weights and get fast and strong, but not anyone can hit a round ball that is moving up and down, side to side and towards you, *fast*, with a round stick ill advised for that very task.

Baseball is a sport where, as a fan, there are highs and lows, but there's always a picnic atmosphere. In the stands, people are not conceited enough to dislike the fan rooting for the other team next to you, as in some other sports that are a bit more intense. Baseball fans enjoy the friendly competition.

I shouldn't say that – what's more intense than a full count with the bases loaded and a tie game? You have to think about what the batter is thinking, "If its close, I have to swing, so I don't run the risk of striking out looking. But if it's a ball, I get the RBI and we get the win." That makes it a tough choice as to what pitch to swing at. And then there's the pitcher, "Throw a strike, throw a strike, throw a strike, please don't hit it, please don't hit it..."

A fan knows that when the pitcher throws a ball that's slow and crooked, he threw it that way on purpose. He

knows the ball doesn't magically float down and away or up and in. He knows that a professional pitcher like Roger Clemens, who can knock a cigarette out of someone's mouth with a fastball from 60 ft. 6 inches 99% of the time, can hit a guy on purpose, and when he does hit a guy, it's really tough to explain it by saying "one got away."

Baseball is a sport, more than any other, where teamwork is key. In football, if you have a good quarterback and two decent receivers you can be in any game. In basketball, if you have Michael Jordan, no matter the other four players, you can win a championship. In baseball you can't be selfish. You have to be willing to hit a pop up to sacrifice the man on third home. As a pitcher, you could be Randy Johnson, but you have to count on your middle infield to get you out of innings.

Baseball is America's game. And that's what it is—a game. And that's what makes it fun. It's how men become boys again, vicariously. And if you appreciate the little things—all the things that make up the game—then you'll really enjoy it, and then you'll become a real fan.

SJC SPORTS SHORTS

Women's Basketball

After a 68-54 win over Wisconsin-Parkside behind Heather Allen's 22 points, the Lady Pumas finsihed their 2001 season with a 2-24 overall record (2-18 in the GLVC).

Baseball

Coach O'Dette's team opened with a 1-3 record after their Alabama trip. The Pumas split a doubleheader with Montevallo (13-7, 6-7) with Mark Stasch picking up the win on the mound. Brandon Hardy went 6-for-7 with three homers over the two games. The team lost their next doubleheader with the #5 team in the nation, Alabama-Huntsville (8-9, 5-22). Bright spot performances came from Jim Pirowski, Jeff Downs, Andy Ausburger, and Jeff Myszak.

Softball

The USI Mizuno Classic that was to open Coach Frank Wilkins' team's season was cancelled. The softball team will now go to Orlando, FL to open their season on March 2-10.

Men's Tennis

Under Coach John Barrientos, the men's tennis team lost their first team match 0-9 at Anderson University. Their next match is on the road at Manchester College on March 13.

Mammoth TRIPLEHEADER Edition:

COACH'S CORNER: SJC Men's Basketball coaches Dave Balza, Ken Carrillo, and Chris Highfield

by Don Shanahan

Welcome again, *Observer* readers, to a very special edition of "Coach's Corner" that is bursting at the seams with coaching wisdom and leadership. Why learn about just one basketball coach when you can read about all three at the same time? If that's a question you've asked, then this interview session is your answer.

In a tripleheader feature, I sat down this past weekend with Dave Balza, Ken Carrillo, and Chris Highfield, the three men that make up the men's basketball coaching staff here at SJC. Head coach Balza and assistant coach Carrillo are in their third year here having, by far, their best season. Mr. Highfield is finishing up his first year as an assistant coach. Here's a look inside the psyches that run SJC men's basketball:

Q. What qualities do you look for in your players on and off the court?

Balza: I like my players to be mentally tough, yet cerebral. Quickness is a big thing, too. I like guys that understand the game and have a passion for it. Off the court, I like young men that do the right things and make good decisions.

Carrillo: On the court, our players need to be quick, have a "feel" for the game, and good ball skills. Off, our players need to have a true interest in academics and be able to fit into their surroundings.

Highfield: This freshman class is a great base for all of these things (quickness, passion, skill). In many ways, the quality of our players has made the team a tight-knit family of hard workers.

Q. Though the season is almost up, what were the target goals this season for your team?

Balza: First and foremost, we want to get better on a daily basis. Secondly, we want to play in the NCAA tournament. Finally, I want the players to mature into individuals with courage and responsibility.

Carrillo: In addition, we need to continue to build a foundation that will eventually ensure success with every season. We visually represent SJC and need to do that in a positive way.

Highfield: SJC has a great tradition of men's basketball that unfortunately has not been exciting for a while. This year is a statement year to say that we're not a sub-par team. We want the conference to know that we are shooting for the top with our good foundation.

Q. Describe to the layperson the Puma's style of play.

Balza: I commonly like to call our style "run and stun." We like an up-tempo come from fast breaks and motion offense.

Carrillo: I have to echo exactly that. We are a team that covers the whole floor.

Highfield: I, too, have to follow that in echo because we really do like a



**HEAD COACH
DAVE BALZA**



**ASSISTANT COACH
KEN CARRILLO**



**ASSISTANT COACH
CHRIS HIGHFIELD**

game of speed.

Q. Coach Balza, what is the toughest part about being the head guy, the man in charge, the head coach?

Balza: It's hard to juggle the many aspects of coaching and the issues involved from player academics to recruiting. I couldn't do it without this staff as we try and build for the future. It's also tough when you can't get everything you want and dream of done sometimes. I've had great plans for the locker rooms and the Fieldhouse that just can't be done.

Q. Beyond what Dave just said, what is the hardest part about your job that most people don't realize?

Highfield: (with a laugh) The 5:30am practices! Seriously, I have to say that my hardest challenge has been the newness of being a college coach and getting used to everything from watching the academics of my players to learning the whole system.

Carrillo: My biggest challenge is a personal one and not one that comes directly from my job. I have trouble trying to keep my weight down with the great food in the cafeteria. The staff here with men's basketball, the athletic department, and the kids are all easy to work with and positive. The job itself is actually easy for me.

Balza: The hardest thing I fight to do is keep the assistant coaches out of the Rensselaer "hot spots." Benny's should be renamed "Benny's and Kenny's" for how much time a certain person is there. (laughs all-round)

Q. Speaking of newness, Coach Highfield, how has your first year been?

Highfield: I can't complain. It's great. It's fantastic. I love the people I work with and the lessons I have learned in terms of coaching and being on my own away from home. I'm happy to say that this is the kind of place that will keep me here a while.

Q. Who is your idol—personally or from a coaching standpoint?

Carrillo: Personally, I loved Willy Mays when I was a kid. From a coaching standpoint, I have to give great respect to John Wooden of UCLA fame and his philosophies.

Highfield: Without a doubt, Magic Johnson - a complete leader and player. In terms of coaching, I idolize Rick Majerus, his coaching style, and his personality.

Balza: I have to go with Mike Krzyzewski

of Duke for coaching and Walter Payton and Pete Rose for personal idols because of the strength in which they played the game.

Q. You guys are all avid cafeteria visitors. What's your favorite dish?

Highfield: (before I even finished the question) Cho's CyberWraps, baby! I know I took your answer too, Carrillo!

Carrillo: (whispering cyberwraps) Anything Steve Santo makes.

Balza: I'll take a simple french toast.

Q. As basketball experts and coaches, what is the most accurate basketball movie? On the side, what is your personal favorite?

Carrillo: My favorite is the little-seen *The Fish Who Saved Pittsburgh*. It works for accuracy as well.

Balza: Though Hodges Smith would say *Hoop Dreams*, I'm going to have to go with the book and movie for *Heaven is a Playground* for accuracy. As far as a favorite, *Hoosiers* stands alone.

Highfield: I have to give props to my man Shaq and *Blue Chips* as a favorite and *Hoosiers* as a close second on the list of favorites and accuracy.

Q. What the best non-athletic perk about your job?

Carrillo: The relationship with security helps.

Highfield: The free laundry is nice and the ability to walk into the City Office and Pub and get a table even when it's busy because of Ken Carrillo.

Balza: I like the opportunity to being exposed to community events, speaking opportunities, camps, etc. as a leader.

Q. Coach Carrillo, how has it been juggling your newly acquired duties to the tennis team?

Carrillo: Fortunately everyone involved from Dave here to John Barrientos has been supportive and understanding. Basketball has taken precedence right now and is still a year-round sport, but tennis has been great.

Q. What hobbies or outside interests do you guys have in the little spare time you have off the court?

Carrillo: I enjoy watching and training to be on CBS's "Survivor." It's like the second game film I have to study and scout every night.

Highfield: I'm right there with that. I can't get enough of that show either.

Balza: I've only watched part of two episodes so I can't get into it like you two.

When I'm at home, I'm a movie buff. On nights before a game, whether it's out at a theater or at home on video, I like to kick back to a good movie to take my mind off the stress at hand. That's the quiet time I have to enjoy the company of friends and others.

Q. What music gets you guys up for a game? What would be your ideal "warm-up tape?"

Highfield: Without a doubt, Eminem and Limp Bizkit!

Carrillo: I'll take anything that Highfield here dislikes.

Highfield: That would any country, 60's music, and that 40's music Carrillo lived through when he was in college.

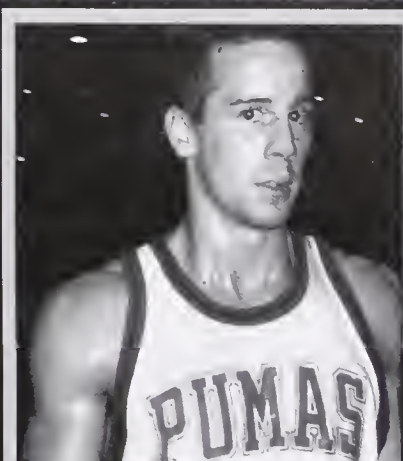
Balza: Actually, I enjoy the SJC band before a game. Nothing brings more energy and pride than your own school song and "When the Pumas Go Marching In."

Q. Finally and most though-provoking, could you three as a team wipe the floor with the fabled "noon league" players?

Highfield: Absolutely! Bring any of them on!

Carrillo: I'm staying quiet on this one.

Balza: Those guys can play and play seriously. The toughest matchup would be with Bill White, Mike Manning, and Bill Mottelese. Anyone else would go down, most especially Rob Burns, Jim Henson, and Tom Riva.



Check back next issue for a complete report on the men's basketball's red-hot season finish, the three week streak of GLVC POTW's, BRANDON YATES' senior day performance, and the team's #4 seed run through the GLVC Tournament!

Nightly Encounters

I saw a fly upon the wall.
Or was it ceiling, floor or all?
Then Elvis did appear right there
And I was in my underwear
My crotch in plain sight of the king
Who now began to dance and sing
A tiny dog yapped at my feet
Oddly enough to the king's beat
Then flying weasels, steaks and bugs
Crashed in and spattered on my rug
Persian silk, only the best
And then, I, standing fully dressed
Approached the bench at OJ's trial
Where sat the kiler with a smile
A doughnut appeared first in my fist
But then a knife, a fitting twist
I plunged into his thick chest
Only to make a sloppy mess
Of marbles, crayons and dirty socks
It seems I stabbed my own toy box
While flyuing to the planet Mars
Inside one of those Jetson cars
I saw Judy and lovely Jane
And was in my skivvies once again
We jumped into the back seat
And interrupted a large retreat
Of Puritans, whose arms we tried to break
And so they burned me at the stake
But I escaped real fast and quick
Because I said "Your fly's down, Slick"
And so I ran as fast as I could
Until some guy screamed, "Clean the mud!"
I thought why does he speak of such
And then I pushed down on the clutch
Of my big rig, with thirteen wheels
Which did perspire, spin and squeal
Until they mashed the little man
Dwelling inside a sardine can
I didn't know it at the time,
He'd been a relative of mine
He enjoyed being pieces of large board games
But he was dead with me to blame
And then I heard my Fruit Loops crying
Doorbells ringing, and Russians spying
Kermit the frog was yelling again
And the clock said "It's four eighty-seven past ten."
I cracked my eye to see what was amiss
And woke to alarm and the feeling of piss
While daytime on my nerves does prey
The nighttime is when brains may play

~ Lance Crow

Word Play

bib•li•o•phile- *n.*, A lover or connoisseur of books.

ef•ful•gent- *adj.*, Shining brilliantly; resplendent.

pa•ri•e•tal- *adj.*, 1. a. of Of or forming the wall of a body part, organ, or cavity. *b.* Of or in the region of the sides of the skull. 2. Dwelling or having authority within the walls or buildings of a college.

sex•a•ge•nar•i•an- *n.*, A person between the ages of 60 and 70.

var•let- *n.*, 1. An attendant or servant. 2. Knave, rascal.

Feline Frenzy

- 78% of cats never travel with their owner.
- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- A cat's jaw cannot move sideways.
- A large majority of white cats with blue eyes are deaf. White cats with only one blue eye are deaf only in the ear closest to the blue eye.
- White cats with orange eyes do not have this disability.
- Black cats are considered lucky in England.
- Cat whiskers can detect movements 2,000 times smaller than the width of a human hair.
- Cats cannot taste sweets.
- Cats have AB blood groups just like people.
- Cats have five toes on each front paw, but only four toes on each back paw.
- Cats in Halifax, Nova Scotia have a very high possibility of having six toes.
- In 1888, an estimated 300,000 mummified cats were found at Beni Hassan, Egypt. They were sold at \$18.43 per ton, and shipped to England to be ground up and used for



- fertilizer.
- In 1993, there were an estimated 64 million cats in the United States.
- In four years, one female cat could be responsible for the birth of 20,736 cats.
- In the Middle Ages, during the festival of Saint John, cats were burned alive in town squares.
- Most cats have no eye-lashes.
- Mother cats teach their kittens to use the litter box.
- Spot, Data's cat on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, was played by six different cats.
- Studies show that if a cat falls off the seventh floor of a building it has about thirty percent less chance of surviving than a cat falling of the twentieth floor. It supposedly takes about eight floors for the cat to realize what is occurring, relax and correct itself.
- The ancestor of all domestic cats is the African Wild Cat which still exists today.
- The average house cat weighs in at 11 pounds.
- The cheetah is the only cat in the world that can't retract its claws.

<http://www.uselessfacts.net/>

Puma Entertainment Quick Picks

Don Shanahan

Movies Coming to Theaters March 2nd

The Mexican- Julia Roberts and Brad Pitt team up in a romantic road comedy as an at-odds couple where he is stuck in Mexico searching for a legendary pistol for the mob while she gets kidnapped by a sentimental hitman

See Spot Run- As if *Ready to Rumble* wasn't bad enough for his film career, David Arquette of lousy phone ad fame stars as a bumbling mailman who adopts a drug-sniffing FBI dog that's being hunted by the mob.

Movies Coming to Theaters March 9th

15 Minutes- Robert De Niro and Edward Burns (Saving Private Ryan) play a homicide detective and a fire inspector hot on the trail of a couple of sadistic killers who get their thrills from videotaping their crimes which are then broadcast on national television by a sleezy TV anchor (Kelsey Grammar).

Get Over It- High school comedy about a guy (Colin Hanks, son of Tom Hanks) who is ceremoniously dumped by his girlfriend only to pursue her younger sister. Mila Kunis and Kirsten Dunst co-star.

New Video/DVD Releases for March 6th

Meet the Parents- The director of *Austin Powers* delivers this hilarious surprise hit from last fall pitting Ben Stiller's last-name-challenged visiting fiancée in a week-

end of pitfalls and competition against Robert De Niro's suspicious father-in-law-to-be.

New Video/DVD Releases for March 13th

Almost Famous- This semi-autobiographical account of director Cameron Crowe's days as a fifteen year-old reporter for *Rolling Stone* in the 60's stars Billy Crudup and Kate Hudson.

The Tao of Steve- Donal Logue of TV's "Grounded For Life" stars as a pudgy ladies man who believes that he can seduce any woman by zen-like following the manuerisms of movie legend Steve McQueen.

The Crew- Four retired geriatric wise guys try for one last score in this mobster comedy.

Turn It Up- Recording artists Pras and Ja Rule star in this urban story of a rapper trying to make it big only to be held down by his drug-dealing and trouble making producer and longtime friend, a returning delinquent father, and a pregnant girlfriend.

CD Releases for March 6th

Aerosmith: Just Push Play
Eve: Scorpion
Big Daddy Kane: The Very Best of Big Daddy Kane
Pam Tillis: Thunder and Roses
Jesse Powell: J.P.

CD Releases for March 13th

Eric Clapton: Reptile
Semisonic: All About Chemistry
The Baha Men: 2 Zero 0-0

In the Month of March...

Women's History Month
National Put on Hold Month

- 1 National Pig Day
- 3 I Want You To Be Happy Day
- 4 Return Borrowed Books Day
- 9 Go Commando Day
- 10 Harriet Tubman Day
- 11 Dream 2001 Day
- 14 Butt Appreciation Day
- 15 Open Minded Husbands Day
- 16 Naughty Vegetable Day
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 18-24 Anonymous Giving Week
- 23 Give Me Liberty Or Give Me Death Day
- 19-25 Spring Fever Week, Bubble Week
- 20 Great American Meatout, First Day of Spring
- 21 Single Parents Day
- 22 National Day of the Seal
- 26 Islamic New Year, Spank Your Lover Day
- 31 Bunsen Burner Day

IN THE WOODS

way up North
away from the traffic and lights
woodlands remain as pure
as a virgin
on the night before her wedding

i visited the museum of trees
and found serenity

sit and listen
no motors, no people, only you

drift as the river runs
like a two year old in a toy store

listen to the ice-wrought cliffs
smash the sculptures of water

the air is cleaner,
the skies are bluer,
and at night stars float in the sky like baby marshmallows in hot chocolate

distinguished mountains dance
with the wish-washy clouds

placid lakes hide their undercurrent
beneath a shine
like that of a bald mans head

trees reach for the sky like actors in old gangster movies

and amidst it all

little boys become the heroes of their dreams

~ Nicholas T. Schafer

Nobody really cares if you're miserable, so you might as well be happy."
-Cynthia Nelms